

**Seattle Human Services Department  
Communities Supporting Safe and Stable Housing  
Advisory Group Meeting – August 18, 2011**

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Al Poole welcomed everyone to the meeting. A list of participants in attendance is attached to the summary notes.

**II. Agenda and Homework Review**

Andréa Akita reviewed the agenda, provided a brief recap of the purpose of the Advisory Group, and informed the group about upcoming focus groups and community meetings. A draft Investment plan will be released for public comment on October 21, 2011. The CEH regional Single Adult Shelter Task Force was mentioned, along with the HSD Homelessness Prevention RFI, as part of the effort to continue to set the framework for shaping future investments.

**III. Homework**

Keeping in mind the themes and priorities identified in prior advisory group meetings, the group was asked to share their action ideas which answered two questions:

**(1) In the next five years, how can HSD target resources to better integrate services to support families and individuals? How can we as a community leverage resources to increase the impact and efficiency of HSD investments?**

**(2) What specific action(s) do you recommend to achieve the service integration goals in the next five years?**

**Major Action Ideas:**

- A volunteer run, centrally located 24-hour program with coordinated intake, which brings together existing social service providers, where women and families can come together to meet their needs. An incentive-based program, promoting personal accountability.
- Encouraging local businesses to invest in day centers (Toronto model).
- Promote more “cross-pollination” within City departments and service providers, helping people understand the connections between different City-funded services, and how to utilize those services
- Create a place of voice/e-mails/blogs to be able to access information; bring more information to the people who are in need.
- Strategic focus on new and existing Immigrant and Refugee populations in need
- Creation of a men’s referral center; a day center with relationship building.
- Create a team of mobile service teams who are able to serve anyone; they can conduct outreach to people at drop-in centers and other places; with additional 24/7 shelters, provide tailored referrals, or take people in need to a shelter with appropriate services.
- Rental assistance for DV providers to help individuals who feel safe to stay in their homes
- Children’s Home Society does a lot of cross-systems work to provide head-start program for homeless families, and provide wrap-around support (a model to work from).
- We have to push back against changes at the state/federal/policy level that have ripple effects on the ground level (ex. Elimination of GAU cash benefits)

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- Increasing accountability of all people and systems in dealing with issues of homelessness (ex. mental health system); continue to seek ways to increase resources.
- Lowering barriers to access for services, employment and housing for people, especially those with a criminal record.
- Have to think about length-of-stay issues –if we are calling it “Transitional Housing”, people need a place to transition to.
- This has to begin with flexible funding, and the current funding does not encourage collaboration.
- We have to figure out what the **goals** of the system are. No one dying on the street? No one *living* on the street?
- Need increased focus on communication; newly homeless / at-risk individuals have to get a quick “PhD” in social services in order to be able to access assistance.
- Have to look at permanent housing placements that are coming straight out of emergency shelter, rather than from transitional housing. The requirements for housing for chronically homeless single adults is that referrals have to come straight out of emergency shelter, but what do chronically homeless single adults currently living in transitional housing do?
- Providers want to continue to be **partners** not simply vendors
- It is confusing about how to access services, and which services to access – thinks that many people are in the wrong line.
- One of the problems: There are properties that are not related to the Housing Authority, and this whole other group offers federally-assisted HUD housing, **but** each of these providers has their own waiting list, and people have to get on each of the waiting lists – there is not one centralized one.
- Frustrated with lack of resources/space, considering the volume of people served.
- How to address enormous unmet basic needs while still thinking about expanding/providing more and deeper services. We need more thinking about the space issue.
- We need to do what we can do today, which is to shelter people
- Have to create a holding environment, where we can engage together on doing the change process in a positive way.
- We have to think about how to walk through this change, and what the process of change will look like (more important)

**IV. Meeting Adjourned**

Andréa Akita thanked the Advisory Group members for their time, and encouraged everyone to contact her or Al Poole with any further thoughts or action ideas.

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***Final Advisory Group Meeting:  
September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011, from 3-5pm  
Rainier Community Center***